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REPORT OF
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO.

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BOULDER, October 25th, 1876.

GOVERNOR ROUTT:

Dear Sir:—At the suggestion of Mr. Corning I herewith transmit to you a concise and hastily written history of the University of Colorado, with the view of enabling you to understand its past struggles, its present status, and its future wants.

The act establishing this institution was introduced by Chas. F. Holly, a member of the Territorial House from Boulder County, and passed at the session of 1862. Fifteen Trustees were named to take charge of the institution, among which were J. B. Chaffee, Amos Steck, Gov. Gilpin, A. A. Bradford, and other prominent men of the Territory. But the act remained a dead letter on the statutes until the session of 1870, when an amendment to the original bill was proposed, adding five new Trustees, all of whom lived in the vicinity of Boulder, and have a direct interest in the permanent establishment and building up of this institution.

A meeting of the Trustees, or as many of them as could be got together, was held on the 29th of January, 1870, at Boulder. At this first meeting there were present Gov. Gilpin, Edwin Scudder, B. M. Sanford, T. J. Graham, J. M. Smith, Granville Berkley, and Amos Widner.

An organization was effected by electing Granville Berkley President, T. J. Graham Secretary, and Edwin Scudder Treasurer. Nothing further was done than to authorize

the location of the grounds on which to erect a building when there should be an appropriation for that purpose.

But it was not until a year after that the present site was procured and a deed made out to the Trustees for the same, with an additional tract of eighty acres donated by Anthony Arnett, lying in the vicinity of Boulder.

During the Legislative session of 1872, an effort was made to get an appropriation to put up a building, but the bill failed to pass, and nothing further was done till the ensuing session of 1874, when the Legislature appropriated fifteen thousand dollars, conditional that a like amount should be secured by donation, etc. This encouragement from the Legislature induced the Trustees to make another effort. A meeting was called, and a new organization was effected by the adoption of a code of by-laws and the election of new officers. Rev. N. Thompson was elected President, Amos Widner Secretary, and Geo. C. Corning Treasurer. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions to meet the requirements of the Legislature, to enable the Trustees to avail themselves of the Legislative appropriation.

The officers of the Board had correspondence with a number of the best educators in the country, receiving suggestions and plans in regard to the contemplated building.

The Committee on subscription reported, at a meeting of the Board held on the 18th of May, 1875, that it had succeeded in raising the amount required by law to enable the Trustees to draw on the Territorial Treasurer for the fifteen thousand dollars. This was done, and the thirty thousand dollars was placed to the credit of the University.

An architect was employed, plans adopted, and the contract let to the lowest responsible bidder. It was completed and accepted on the 18th day of last April.

You are aware, also, that at the last winter's session the Legislature appropriated fifteen thousand dollars to the University, to be paid in installments. Two of those installments, that is to say, one-half the amount appropriated, have been drawn, and about six thousand dollars been

spent in eompliance to the specific object named in the act making the appropriation, to wit, fencing the grounds, planting out trees, supplying the building with water by means of pipes, furnishing and placing gas pipes, also providing the building with drainage, sewerage, etc.

The present Board of Trustees, when they hand over the building to the incoming regency, which they will do now in a few days, will place at their disposal about eight thousand five hundred dollars of the last winter's appropriation. The Auditor's warrants for this will not issue till January and July next, for which reason the money is not available for present purposes. The institution will be handed over without having a dollar's indebtedness, and the present Board, in stepping down and out, have the gratifying reflection that in the erection and completing of the first building of the Colorado University, not a dollar has been lost or misspent, or appropriated for any other than the best interest of the institution. The building is now thoroughly completed and ready for occupation, with the exception of furniture, and it is *hoped* that the Legislature may provide some means by which a school may be opened at once. Scarcely a week goes by but the Secretary has letters of inquiry and applications from every part of the State, and many from the Eastern and Western States, wishing to know how we are getting along, etc.

Very respectfully,

AMOS WIDNER,

Trustee.